

# El Salvador

## Country Overview



**Language:** Spanish (official)

**Religion:** Catholic (50%) Protestant (36%) None (12%) Other (2%)

**Capital:** San Salvador

**Currency:** US Dollar

**Government:** Presidential republic

**President:** Salvador Sanchez Ceren

**Term limit:** 5 years

**Willow Creek Partner:** Enlace

**Region:** Santa Ana

**Location:** Northwest

**Environment:** Semi-urban

**Want to learn more about El Salvador?**

[www.willowcreek.org/global/countryinfo](http://www.willowcreek.org/global/countryinfo)

## Background

Stemming from economic inequality and lack of rights, the 1980 civil war had devastating effects with nearly the death of 75,000 civilians, destruction of infrastructure, increased poverty, and an increased presence of gangs and violence. El Salvador has one of the world's highest homicide rates and contains pervasive criminal gangs, but churches have played a unique role in working with community members and gang members to deter the violence and to bring hope.

## Hunger/Health

- ◆ Rice, beans, and tortillas are popular foods commonly eaten. Many people cannot afford meat and do not receive basic nutrients causing malnutrition to be a significant problem
- ◆ Access to basic healthcare largely depends on socioeconomic status and environment

### *Main health issues:*

- ◆ Respiratory issues- 18% of deaths of children under 5 are because of respiratory issues
- ◆ Diarrhea due to lack of sanitation
- ◆ Waterborne illnesses due to unclean water

## About Willow's Partner: Enlace

Enlace is a non-profit organization that serves communities in El Salvador through empowering local churches. This allows the churches to become agents of change in their communities as they work to develop sustainable solutions to poverty and other social problems. Enlace coaches leaders to design initiatives that address some of the hardest issues facing a community such as medical clinics, housing, or water systems.